

A Study Guide to *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*

This film is an interesting and humorous presentation of a sub-culture within the United States. The heroine tries to introduce her fiancé, an Anglo-American and his family to their Greek culture. It is a study in the ups and downs of crossing cultures.

1. List some examples of ethnocentrism on the part of Tula's father.
2. Tula's mother and aunts make it clear to her what the role of a Greek woman is. What three things are expected from a Greek woman?
3. What is different in the marriage timetables for Greek men and women?
4. Ostensibly, Greek society is patriarchal. But Tula's mother thinks otherwise. The proverb she uses is, "The man is the head, and the woman is the neck. And the neck can move the head ..."
5. Communication styles can differ greatly from culture to culture. What two communication modes does Tula say her family has?
6. People crossing cultures often bring culture-based gifts. What do Ian's parents bring to the party? What do the Greeks think is wrong with it? How do they fix it?
7. "Cultural guides" are people who offer their help to assist in fitting in. Sometimes they offer useful phrases to "break the ice". How do Tula's brothers do this with Ian?
8. Ethnocentrism causes us to hear and see what we want, not necessarily what is there. When Tula's aunt hears that Ian is a vegetarian and does not eat meat ("What do you MEAN he don't eat meat?!") how does she resolve the issue in her mind?
9. What good luck gesture do the Anglos find disgusting?
10. Sometimes all foreign names sound and look alike. How do the Greeks mess up Ian's mother's name in the wedding invitation?
11. Tula's dad is dismayed by the cool, reserved style of Ian's family. What does he compare them to?
12. In the end, he wants them to be part of the family, despite their differences. So he sums it up by saying, "We are apples, they are oranges, but in the end, we are all ..." what?